CIA Role In Laos Is Cited

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Sen. J. W. Fulbright (D-Ark.) said yesterday that he was surprised to learn from secret testimony of large unbudgeted American spending and the extent of Central Intelligence Agency involvement in Laos.

The chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee appeared on the NBC television program, "Meet the Press." He referred to testimony given a subcommittee headed by Sen. Stuart Symington (D-Mo.), which several senators have urged be made public.

Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield (D-Mont. said on the CBS program, "Face the Nation," he believed there was a good possibility of reaching agreement with the Nixon administration to release part of the transcript.

President Nixon has said the United States has 1,040 personnel on the ground in Laos assisting Laotian forces in the fight against North Vietnamese troops. A number of senators fear Laos could become another Vietnam war, which began with a few American advisers present.

Both Mansfield and Fulbright, longtime critics of the Vietnam war, said American personnel should be withdrawn from Laos, but that the United States should continue to try to block Ho Chi Minh trail supply routes in Laos leading from North Vietnam to South Vietnam.

Mansfield said he did not believe the independence of Laos was worth loss of American lives. He said he believed theiPresident would not send ground forces into Laos.

Both Mansfield and Fulbright said the Vietnamization policy of turning the war over to South Vietnam would not end the fighting. This can be done only by a diplomatic settlement, they said. Mansfield urged that a high ranking negotiator be sent to the Paris peace talks on Vietnam to replace Henry Cabot Lodge, who resigned three months ago.